St Mary's C of E Junior School Newsletter

Care. Believe. Succeed.

'All things are possible for one who believes.'

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

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Issue: 70 16th June 2025

Curriculum & Enrichment

Year 3 education visit to the Airbus Science Discovery Centre, Stevenage

Last week, the children from Elm and Oak Class enjoyed a fun and educational trip to the Science Discovery Centre, where they took part in a variety of exciting activities and interactive experiences.

Activities included:

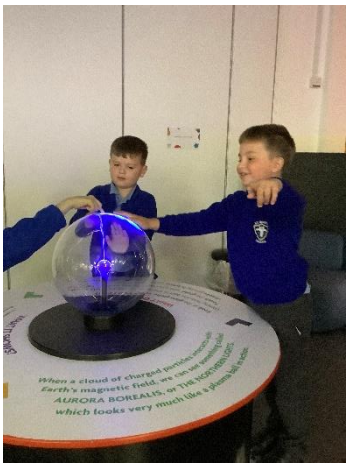
- An Exo-Mars Talk, all about Mars exploration. The children learned about past and future missions to the Red Planet, including the role of the ExoMars Rover and the challenges of space travel.
- An Opposites attract show where children explored the fascinating world of magnets and magnetic forces.
- A Magnetic Investigation where pupils got hands-on experience with magnetic materials and tested how different objects react to magnetic forces. They then made their own magnetic jar which they were delighted to be able to take home.
- A Science Interactive Zone**,** which featured exhibits on space, energy, materials, maths and of course forces. This hands-on area allowed everyone to investigate and play whilst learning through direct experience.

Both Elm and Oak classes had a fantastic time!

"I found out that all magnets are found underground." Brodie, Elm

"I learnt that it's 140 million miles to get to Mars". Ava T, Elm

"Seeing the space rovers really wowed me!" Javien, Oak.



Year 6 PGL Residential

4-7th June 2025

What an adventure! Our Year 6 pupils have just returned from an unforgettable residential trip to **Caythorpe Court**, and what an incredible few days they had!

From the moment we arrived, excitement was in the air. Caythorpe Court, set in the beautiful Lincolnshire countryside, offered the perfect setting for new experiences, team-building, and making memories that will last a lifetime.

The children threw themselves into every activity with energy and enthusiasm. Whether it was scaling the Jacob's Ladder, whizzing down the zip wire, or working together to build rafts on the lake, each challenge brought out their bravery, teamwork, and determination. Some even surprised themselves by conquering fears — a huge achievement!

A real highlight of the trip was seeing how well the children supported each other. From cheering on their friends during the Trapeze activity, to helping set up shelter and working together light a campfire. Year 6 showed fantastic cooperation and growing independence.

I'd like to say a big thank you to the staff who helped make this trip possible, and to the parents for their support. Most of all, well done to Year 6 for being such brilliant ambassadors for our school. You did us proud.

Mr Briggs

Safeguarding

PCSO Parent Talk Thursday 5th June 5pm.

Thank you so much to the parents who attended the PCSO parent meeting on Thursday 5th June. There were some really useful discussions around online safety, the use of mobile phones and how to keep children safe online.

For those parents who could not attend, please take time to read through the attached parent guide that I have put together. I do hope it's helpful.

St Mary's Junior and Infant PTA

Would you like to be part

The long awaited new PTA (FOSS)has now been formed!

We would love all parents to join us on Wednesday 18th June at 3.30pm in the Junior School hall for coffee and cake. This is an initial first meeting for parents to find out more about FOSS and to register your interest in becoming part of this important group that is so fundamental to both schools. Any amount of time you can give to help at events will be greatly appreciated, no matter how small!

This initial meeting will focus on the first FOSS fundraising event -The Summer Picnic on Wednesday 16th July.

If you can't make it on the 18th, please do send a dojo to the school offices to share your interest in being part of FOSS.

PARENT OPEN SESSION -Wednesday 9th July 3.30-4.30pm

After school on this day, parents are warmly invited to come into school with their child to look at their child's work and explore the rest of the school.
Herts Catering will be offering food samples, to allow parents to see what is on offer as part of school meals choices.

St Mary's Junior Greenway Sponsored Walk Tuesday 8th July 2025 9am-12.00pm

We do hope that children are working hard to collect their sponsors from family and friends.
A reminder that parents are also welcome to join in this event. If you would like to join us, please complete this Google form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUVb76w-b8fY0MR6sL-I4r15Xa7DcxMnbKF3Ds3_hE4vTChg/viewform?usp=header

Y6 - Save the Dates!

This year, Year 5 will not be joining in as choir within the Year 6 end of year production. This decision has been made by staff as the songs this year do not need choir accompaniment.

Thursday 17th July Year 6 Production for parents 1.30-2.45pm and 6.00 -7.15pm

Friday 18th July Year 6 Leavers Disco 4.30-6pm

Monday 21st July Year 6 Leavers assembly (parents invited) 2.30-3.15pm

Attachments with this newsletter

- HFL Online Safety termly newsletter for parents
- St Mary's parent guide to child online safety

Summer Term 2025

Summer Term Ends: 23rd July 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
Summer Holidays: 24th July to 2nd September 2025

Autumn Term 2025

INSET DAY: 3rd September 2025
Autumn Term: 3rd September 2025 to 19th December 2025
Autumn Half Term: 27th October to 31st October 2025
Occasional Day: 28th November 2025
Autumn Term Ends: 19th December 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

Spring Term 2026

INSET DAY: 5th January 2026
Spring Term: 5th January 2026 to 27th March 2026
Spring Half Term: 16th February to 20th February 2026
Easter Term Ends: 27th March 2026 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
Easter Holidays: 30th March to 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

INSET DAY: 13th April 2026
Summer Term: 13th April to 23rd July 2026
MAY BANK HOLIDAY: 4th May 2026
Spring Half Term: 25th May to 29th May 2026
INSET DAY: Monday 1st June 2026
Summer Term Ends: 22nd July 2026 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
INSET DAY: Thursday 23rd July 2026
Summer Holidays: 23rd July to 3rd September 2026